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Plant Import:
Nonpropagative

Fruits and Vegetables

Identification Guide of Exotic Fruits

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Introduction


This “Fruit Identification Guide” is to help officers identify unfamiliar, exotic fruits intercepted at ports of entry.

Feel free to arrange the illustrations to aid your own method of identification—by color, size, shape, or texture. If you come up with a different system of organization that is workable, contact John Patterson (240-629-1934) at the Professional Development Center, Frederick, Maryland.

In using this guide, recognize that the color, size, and shape of a fruit may vary because of degree of ripeness, growing conditions, or variety. Because this guide illustrates fully mature and ripened fruits, you may need to use the printed descriptions to aid you in identification. Pay attention to such characteristics as odor and flavor. Note the fruit texture in addition to color and size. Find out how many seeds are present in the fruit—their size, color, and arrangement.






Above all, this guide will help you, the officer, attain skill in host recognition. This skill is one of several needed to make quick and accurate regulatory decisions.


Fruit Identification Guide






Illustration/Common Name	Description	Botanical Name	Other Names
<p>AKEE</p> 	<p>2 to 3 inches. Looks like scrambled eggs. May be toxic if not fresh or ripe.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Blithe sapida</i>	—
<p>AMBARELLA</p> 	<p>3 inches. Yellow, firm, juicy, sour pulp. Pit woody with long curved spines.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Spondias dulcis</i>	jew plum, golden apple, otaheite apple
<p>AVOCADO</p> 	<p>4 to 5 inches long; 3 to 4 inches in diameter. Thin, green, and leathery skin. Some varieties with warty skin. Oily pulp. Large pit.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Persea americana</i>	aguacate, alligator pear, bo, calavo, palta
<p>AYALE</p> 	<p>4 to 12 inches in diameter. Hard, thin rind. Whitish pulp. Numerous flattened, brown seeds. Used for bowls and musical instruments.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Crescentia cujete</i>	ahuyama, calabaza, common calabash, tecomat





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<p>BARBADOS CHERRY</p> 	<p>Cherry size. Three-sided fruit. Thin skin. Slightly sour, yellow, juicy pulp.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Malpighia glabra</i>	acerola, cepeza de Barbados
<p>BILIMBI</p> 	<p>2 to 3 inches. Slightly five-angled. Thin skin. Crisp, juicy, sour pulp.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Averrhoa bilimbi</i>	belimbines, cucumber tree, kamias, tree sorrel
<p>BREADFRUIT</p> 	<p>4 to 8 inches. Rounded to elliptic fruits. Inside starchy. Usually imported roasted.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Artocarpus altilis</i>	lanqka, mit, pana, ulu
<p>CACAO BEAN POD</p> 	<p>6 to 10 inches. Hard rind. 25 or more seeds surrounded by white, sweet, edible pulp. Seeds used to make chocolate.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Theobroma cacao</i>	cacao
<p>CANISTEL</p> 	<p>Up to 5 inches. Mealy, sweet pulp. One to three seeds.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Pouteria campechiana</i>	egg-fruit

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<p>CARAMBOLA</p> 	<p>4 to 5 inches Thin skin. Crisp, juicy pulp. Flavor of white grape.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Averrhoa carambola</i>	country gooseberry, khê, star fruit
<p>CASHEW APPLE</p> 	<p>1½ to 2 inches broad. Light yellow, juicy, acid, slightly astringent pulp. Orange part is enlarged stem. Cashew nut hangs below. Nut poisonous to touch (same family as poison ivy).</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>	maranon, pajuil
<p>CHERIMOYA</p> 	<p>3 to 5 inches. White, creamy pulp. Each section contains black seed. Flavor of pineapple.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Annona cherimola</i>	cherimola, chirimoya
<p>COCONUT PALM</p> 	<p>8 to 12 inches. Thick, fibrous husk. Green when young, brown when ripe. Center filled with liquid (coconut milk).</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	coco, cocotero, dùa
<p>CURACAO APPLE</p> 	<p>2 to 2½ inches. Thin skin. Crisp, juicy flesh No pit. Floral fragrance.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Syzygium samarangense</i>	liu wu, nân

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<p>CUSTARD APPLE</p> 	<p>3 to 5 inches. Off-white, custard-like pulp. Each section contains one black seed. Sweet, but granular.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Annona reticulata</i>	<p>anona, bullock's heart, corazon, mamon, mãng câ ta momon, nona</p>
<p>DATE</p> 	<p>1 1/2 to 2 inches. Thin, shiny skin. Turning darker when ripe. Single pit. Very sweet. Yellow variety also occurs.</p> <p>Tropical to subtropical</p>	<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	<p>chà-là, date palm, palm fruit, palma de datil, z ozi</p>
<p>DURIAN</p> 	<p>Large, 6 to 8 pounds. Creamy pulp with numerous seeds. Very offensive, rotten onion odor.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Durio zibethinus</i>	<p>sau riêng</p>
<p>ETHROG</p> 	<p>Up to 8 inches. Lemon-like in appearance, but with thicker rind. Imported for religious purposes (Jewish).</p> <p>Tropical to subtropical</p>	<i>Citrus medica</i>	<p>cedrate, cidra, citron, etrog, goodly fruit, limon chivo, limon de cabro, sacred Jewish lemon, toronja</p>
<p>FIG</p> 	<p>Pear shaped. Thin, soft rind. Numerous pulpy seeds attached to rind. Sweet.</p> <p>Temperate</p>	<i>Ficus carica</i>	<p>higo, wùh ag o</p>

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<p>FOXHEAD</p> 	<p>Waxy fruit shaped somewhat like an inverted pear with nipples near the base.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Solanum mammosum</i>	nipple fruit
<p>GENIP</p> 	<p>to 1 1/4 inches in diameter. Skin breaks away like an eggshell. Thin, gelatinous, pinkish to salmon colored pulp.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Melicoccus bijugatus</i> (Sometimes written <i>Melicocca</i>)	honeyberry, kenipe berry, mamon, mamoncillo, quenepa, Spanish lime
<p>GRANADILLA, GIANT</p> 	<p>Up to 12 inches. Thin skin. Thick pulp like honeydew melon. Numerous pulpy seeds.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Passiflora quadrangularis</i>	baden, barbadine, maracuja acu, maracuja grande
<p>GRANADILLA, PURPLE</p> 	<p>Firm, leathery rind. Numerous aromatic pulpy seeds. Yellow variety occurs also.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Passiflora edulis forma edulis</i>	


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<p>GRANADILLA, SWEET</p> 	<p>Rind hard and thin. Numerous grayish, pulpy seeds. Sweet.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Passiflora ligularis</i>	granadilla, grenadille dulce
<p>GUANABANA</p> 	<p>6 to 8 inches. Large, weighing as much as 2 to 5 pounds. Fruit armed with fleshy spines. Pulp white, slightly sour, fibrous. Each section contains one black, shiny seed.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Annona muricata</i>	nanqka, soursop
<p>GUAVA</p> 	<p>1 1/4 to 2 inches. Globular or pear-shaped. Thin, yellow, green, or brown skin. Yellowish or pale green to pink pulp. Numerous inch seeds. Strong pleasantly pungent odor.</p> <p>Tropical to subtropical</p>	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	guayaba
<p>JACKFRUIT</p> 	<p>Large, 10 to 40 pounds. Fruit covered with fleshy spines. Soft, yellow, fragrant pulp.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i>	breadfruit nangka, jaca, mit
<p>JUJUBE, COMMON</p> 	<p>1 to 1 1/2 inches. Pulp with texture of apple. Single, large pit. Dried to make Chinese dates.</p> <p>Tropical to subtropical</p>	<i>Zizyphus jujuba</i>	Chinese date, Chinese jujube, táo

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KIWI 	Hairy skin. Numerous small, black seeds. Banana-strawberry flavor. Temperate	<i>Actinidia chinensis</i>	Chinese gooseberry, grosella chinensis
KOLA NUT 	4 to 5 inches. Pod containing several seeds. Seeds split into four sections. Seeds white to pink. Very bitter. Chewed as a stimulant. Tropical	<i>Cola acuminata</i>	cola nut, guru
KUMQUAT 	1 1/4 to 1 3/4 inches long; 3/4 to 1 inches in diameter. Appearance of a dwarf orange. Thin rind. Sour pulp. Very sweet on inside of rind. Used for preserves. Tropical to subtropical	<i>Fortunella</i> spp.	Hong Kong kumquat, meiwa kumquat, oval kumquat, round kumquat
LANGSAT 	1 3/4 inches. Leathery skin with velvety texture. Translucent pulp in five sections. One or more well developed seeds. Tropical	<i>Lansium domesticum</i>	bon bon, lansone

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<p>LITCHI</p> 	<p>1½ inches. Color from cream to greenish. Sweet, watery, translucent pulp. One pit.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Litchi chinensis</i>	lizzh , lychee, vai
<p>LONGAN</p> 	<p>½ to ¾ inches. Thin skin, peels like eggshell. Translucent, watery, white pulp. Sweet.</p> <p>Tropical to subtropical</p>	<i>Dimocarpus longan</i>	nhan
<p>LOQUAT</p> 	<p>1 to 3 inches. Thin, downy skin. Juicy, sweet, melon flavored pulp. Three to five seeds.</p> <p>Subtropical</p>	<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	—
<p>MALAY APPLE</p> 	<p>2 to 2 ½ inches. Thin skin. Crisp, juicy flesh. Floral fragrance. No distinctive flavor.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Syzygium malaccense</i>	mountain apple

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<p>MAMEE-APPLE</p> 	<p>3 to 8 inches. Thick and leathery skin. White sap. Pulp firm. Two to four rough seeds. Apricot flavor.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Mammea americana</i>	mamey, mamey apple
<p>MANGO</p> 	<p>3 to 6 inches Flattened, elongated fruit. Fibrous, orange pulp. Single large, flattened, fibrous pit. Fragrant. Most widespread and commonly intercepted of all tropical fruit.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	mángg o, xo u
<p>MANGOSTEEN</p> 	<p>2 to 3 inches. Thick, leathery rind with bitter latex. Five to eight white segments. One to three seeds. Very sweet.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Garcinia mangostana</i>	m n cut
<p>MARMALADE-BOX</p> 	<p>3½ to 4½ inches long; 2½ to 3½ in diameter. Fruit and leathery rind soft. Yellow-brown pulp, ¼ inch thick. Numerous flat, yellowish seeds. Strong, sour odor.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Genipa americana</i>	genipap, jagua
<p>MAYPOP</p> 	<p>Rind soft with dull texture. Grayish pulpy seeds. Sweet.</p> <p>Temperate to subtropical</p>	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	apricot vine

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<p>MEDLAR</p> 	<p>1 to 2 inches. Shape and texture of apple. White pulp. Five seeds.</p> <p>Temperate</p>	<i>Mespilus germanica</i>	medlor
<p>MOMBIN</p> 	<p>1 to 1½ inches. Thin skin, aromatic. Thin, yellow, juicy pulp. Large pit.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Spondias</i> spp.	hog-plum, jobo, jobo plum, kedo dong, purple mombin, yellow mombin
<p>NARANJILLA</p> 	<p>2½ inches. Slightly velvety skin. Pulp greenish, tart, fragrant. Numerous tomato-like seeds.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Solanum quitoense</i>	lulo, lulu
<p>OIL PALM, AFRICA</p> 	<p>Resembles small coconut. Brown part woody. Orange part fibrous. White inside.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Elaeis guineensis</i>	—
<p>OTAHEITE GOOSEBERRY</p> 	<p>1 inch. Indistinctly six-segmented. Firm, crisp, sour pulp. Six flat, brown seeds.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Phyllanthus acidus</i>	Indian gooseberry

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<p>PAPAYA</p> 	<p>5 to 18 inches. Thin, soft, green or orange skin. Yellow to orange pulp. Round, soft seeds. Milky juice (unripe). Tropical to subtropical</p>	<i>Carica papaya</i>	lechosa
<p>PEACH PALM</p> 	<p>Firm, fibrous pulp. Flavor of butternut squash. Often imported boiled. Tropical</p>	<i>Bactris gasipaes</i>	—
<p>PEPINO</p> 	<p>4 to 6 inches. Seeds attached at center. Melon-like flavor. Fragrant. Temperate to tropical</p>	<i>Solanum muricatum</i>	melon pear
<p>PERSIMMON</p> 	<p>1 to 3 inches in diameter. Thin, shiny skin. Soft, sweet, orange pulp. Temperate</p>	<i>Diospyros kaki</i>	hong, Japanese persimmon, kaki, kom
<p>PITAHAYA</p> 	<p>Up to 3 inches. Fruit filled with numerous small, black seeds embedded in clear, spongy pulp. Temperate to tropical</p>	<i>Acanthocereus</i> spp.	strawberry cactus fruit, thanh long

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<p>POMEGRANATE</p> 	<p>5 inches. Thick, leathery rind. Numerous ruby red, translucent, pulpy seeds.</p> <p>Tropical to subtropical</p>	<i>Punica granatum</i>	granada, thach luu
<p>PUMMELO</p> 	<p>5 to 6 1/2 inches in diameter. Similar to grapefruit but larger, pear-shaped with thicker rind and coarser pulp.</p> <p>Tropical to subtropical</p>	<i>Citrus maxima</i>	búoi, jabong, pamplamusa, shaddock
<p>QUINCE</p> 	<p>3 to 4 inches in diameter. Irregular shape, patches of fuzz. Similar to apple but very firm.</p> <p>Temperate</p>	<i>Cydonia oblonga</i>	membrillo, môm-quà
<p>RAMBUTAN</p> 	<p>1 1/2 to 3/4 inches. Rind thick covered with soft spines. Sweet, watery, translucent pulp. One pit.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Nephelium lappaceum</i>	chôm-chôm

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<p>SAND PEAR</p> 	<p>Texture of pear, but firmer grittier. Very crisp, juicy fruit.</p> <p>Temperate</p>	<i>Pyrus pyrifolia</i>	Chinese pear, Japanese pear, nashi, nijisseiki, Oriental pear
<p>SAPODILLA</p> 	<p>2 to 3 inches. Rough, leathery skin. Milky latex when unripe. Soft, very sweet pulp. One to several seeds. Tastes like dates.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Manilkara zapota</i>	chicle, chico, naseberry, nispero, xa-bô-chê
<p>SAPOTE</p> 	<p>3 to 6 inches. Leathery skin. Reddish-orange, soft, sweet pulp. Single large, almond-extract scented pit.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Pouteria sapota</i>	mamey sapote, zapote
<p>STAR-APPLE</p> 	<p>2 to 3 inches in diameter. Thick, shiny, purplish or green rind. Gummy latex. Jelly-like pulp. Several flattened seeds arranged in star pattern. Bland flavor.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Chrysophyllum cainito</i>	caimito, cauje, vu sua
<p>SWEETSOP</p> 	<p>3 to 5 inches. Sweet, custard-like, white pulp. Each section contains one black, shiny seed.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Annona squamosa</i>	anon, atis, sugar-apple

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<p>TAMARIND BEAN POD</p> 	<p>2 to 6 inches. Flattened pod containing three to four seeds. Brown, fibrous, very tart pulp.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	tamarindo
<p>TREE TOMATO</p> 	<p>2 to 3 inches. Egg shaped. Red to purple pulp. Numerous tomato-like seeds. Flavor tart to bitter.</p> <p>Tropical to subtropical</p>	<i>Cyphomandra betacea</i>	palo de tomate, tamarillo
<p>TUNA</p> 	<p>Thin skin armed with tiny spines. Deep red, mucilaginous pulp. Numerous small seeds.</p> <p>Tropical to subtropical</p>	<i>Opuntia</i> spp.	flor de cactus, nopal, popalitos, prickly pear pad
<p>WOOD APPLE, INDIAN</p> 	<p>Citrus family. Rind thick and hard. Pulp containing numerous flat seeds.</p> <p>Tropical</p>	<i>Limonia acidissima</i>	—

